

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: JANUARY 1975 FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTICLE ON RECYCLING ATTACKED
BY KAYHAN

1. THE LEAD ESSAY IN THE UNITED STATES QUARTERLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR JANUARY 1975, CO-AUTHORED BY FIVE PROMINENT FINANCIAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING AMONG THEM KHODADAD FARMANFARMAIAN (CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN, BANK SANAYE), IS THE SUBJECT OF A PARTICULARLY VITRIOLIC ATTACK WRITTEN BY AMIR TAHERI IN KAYHAN OF JANUARY 14, 1975. TAHERI'S ARTICLE APPEARED IN BOTH THE ENGLISH AND FARSI VERSIONS OF KAYHAN. TAHERI'S ALMOST STRIDENTLY NATIONALISTIC ARTICLE, LADEN WITH FREQUENT SARCASTIC REFERENCES TO THE FIVE CO-AUTHORS AND DISTINCTLY JINGOISTIC IN TONE, LABELS THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTICLE ON RECYCLING OF PETRO-DOLLARS AS BEING "A SIX HUNDRED BILLION DOLLAR HOLDUP THAT WOULD DWARF THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY SAGA". TAHERI ALLEGES THAT THE AUTHORS' PROPOSAL, INVOLVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUTUAL FUND ATTACHED TO THE IMF THROUGH WHICH PETRO-DOLLARS WOULD BE RECYCLED, WOULD BE AMONG OTHER THINGS A BACK DOOR ATTEMPT AT COLONIALISM, INSULTING TO OPEC MEMBERS AS AN EFFORT TO DENY TO OPEC CONTROL OF ITS OIL REVENUE, AND WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY AN OPERATION GOVERNED BY "PREDATORY COMMERCIAL NORMS". THE RESCUE OPERATION TO BAIL OUT THE OIL CONSUMING NATIONS AS PUT FORTH IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAYS TAHERI, SPEAKS OF "INDUSTRIAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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OPEC AND LDC" COUNTRIES IN A MANNER REMINISCENT OF NINETEENTH

CENTURY COLONIALISM AND POST-WAR IMPERIALISM. TAHERI SEEMS PARTICULARLY UPSET OVER THE ALLEGED ABSENCE IN THE ARTICLE OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE OPEC COUNTRIES THEMSELVES PARTICIPATING IN THE RECYCLING OF THEIR OIL REVENUES. A SECONDARY THEME IN TAHERI'S OUTBURST CENTERS IN THE NOTION THAT THE OPEC NATIONS, UNLIKE THE AUTHORS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTICLE, NO LONGER HAVE ANY INTEREST IN SUSTAINING "AN ARTIFICIAL WORLD SYSTEM...THAT HAS BROUGHT WAR, INJUSTICE, CRISIS AND HEGEMONISTIC TENDENCIES." EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPY OF TAHERI ARTICLE TO NEA/IRN.

2. COMMENT: TAHERI'S ARTICLE IS IN THE MAIN IRRESPONSIBLE IN TONE AND CONTENT AND, IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE, IS HARDLY IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS THE GENERALLY THOUGHTFUL PIECE WHICH IT CRITICIZES. TAHERI'S DIATRIBE COULD BE DISREGARDED WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT THE ARTICLE WAS PROBABLY INITIATED OR APPROVED BY A GOI AGENCY, MOST LIKELY SAVAK. THE EMBASSY'S FILES CONTAIN A NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT TAHERI HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN AN AGENT OF SAVAK. IT IS SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY, THOUGH POSSIBLE, THAT TAHERI, HAVING RECEIVED "GUIDANCE", MAY HAVE "EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS" AND THAT THE FINAL VERSION WAS NOT EXPLICITLY APPROVED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION BY ANY GOI AGENCY. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT THE TAHERI ARTICLE MIRRORS SETTLED GOI POLICY. THE MOST THAT CAN PROBABLY BE SAID DEFINITELY IS THAT THE TAHERI ARTICLE REFLECTS GROWING SENSITIVITIES WITHIN THE GOI, WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT FOREIGNERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE WEST, TELLING IRAN WHAT IT SHOULD DO WITH ITS NEW FOUND WEALTH. TAHERI IN A MEETING LAST WEEK REPORTEDLY HELD FORTH ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF CONGRATULATORY PHONE CALLS HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT HIS ARTICLE. FINALLY, ONE EMBASSY OFFICER HAS RECEIVED A REPORT THAT OFFICIAL DISPLEASURE HAS FALLEN UPON FARMANFARMIAN FOR HAVING CO-AUTHORED THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTICLE.

MIKLOS

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